

The Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research

June 6, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts & Ranking Members Waxman and Pallone:

On behalf of the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research (CPMR), a group of more than 20 of our nation's leading children's research hospitals, I am writing to offer our support for **H.R. 2019, the Kids First Research Act of 2013**.

For too long, our nation has underinvested in pediatric research as a proportion of the overall population. Healthy living begins with a healthy infancy and childhood, and inadequate support for pediatric research negatively affects our nation's children, particularly those suffering from devastating diseases and disorders. It also hinders our ability to prevent and/or treat adult-onset disorders, such as diabetes and heart disease, whose causes are rooted in the childhood years.

H.R. 2019 is a much-needed step forward to address this imbalance. This legislation will help make clear that the health and well-being of our children is a national priority by reallocating scarce public resources to support pediatric research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This infusion of funds would provide a much-needed boost to our pediatric research community, enabling it to expand research efforts to identify causes of and treatments for many of the most devastating diseases and disorders that affect children. The Coalition is particularly pleased that the legislation would fund multi-institute research activities under the Common Fund, helping drive coordination and collaboration.

The Coalition strongly believes that if enacted into law, a portion of this funding should be used to provide competitive awards to support the research infrastructure and resources necessary to conduct a comprehensive 21st Century pediatric research agenda. Such support should focus on shared and core resources such as biobanks, data warehouses, bioinformatics infrastructure, and the advanced computing technologies needed to process increasingly large data sets. It should also help expedite clinical trials in patients with rare diseases, helping link sites and enabling researchers to recruit a critical mass of kids with any one condition. In addition to the Kids First Research Act, the Coalition continues to strongly support **H.R. 225 and S. 424, the National Pediatric Research Network Act**, which would authorize NIH to establish a National Pediatric Research Network. We see these two proposals as highly synergistic and complementary and applaud your committees and the full house for quickly passing this bill – for the fourth time – earlier this year.

On behalf of the Coalition, I thank you for your attention to this. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202.312.7499 or via nicholas.manetto@faegrebd.com

Sincerely,



Nick Manetto
Coalition Advisor